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Call for Papers

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Migration and Adult Education. Intersectional and International Perspectives

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Migration movements triggered by wars, climate change and increasing inequality in the distribution of vital resources, but also non-violently motivated mobilities, are continuously increasing in scope and complexity. At the same time, we are witnessing the rise of far-right and other exclusionary ideologies, which are intensifying nationalist, anti-gender and anti-climate protection discourses, among others (Walia 2021). Migration is a constitutive component of current social transformations and shapes all areas of society - this applies to culture, politics, education and the economy, for example.

For a long time, adult education research was rather reticent when it came to looking at phenomena associated with migration and analyzing the resulting relevant questions for adult and continuing education. In the last fifteen years, a gradual increase in publications on this topic can be observed (Heinemann 2014; Heinemann et al. 2018; Sprung 2011; Öztürk 2014). However, it is particularly noticeable in recent years that publications often no longer focus on the specificity of migration phenomena but appear under the term “diversity” (Dollhausen & Muders 2016; Öztürk 2021; Schweizerischer Verband für Weiterbildung SVEB 2024; Hessischer Volkshochschulverband e.V. 2024). This broader perspective introduces additional important aspects and innovative approaches. However, the thematic breadth conveyed in an inspiring way with a focus on “diversity” also inevitably means that the space for analyzing individual categories of difference remains limited. While increased attention to “diversity” raises awareness of difference and its potential, “intersectional approaches” take even greater account of the constructed nature of difference and the associated aspects of power.

Issue 1/2026 of ZFW focuses on the migration perspective and at the same time invites an analysis of related issues relevant to adult education from an intersectional perspective. Intersectional approaches should help to understand migration-related challenges in adult and continuing education in their complex interactions with other categories (e.g. social background, gender, age). Furthermore, this issue aims to establish a dialogue with international perspectives. These are intended to inspire German-language adult education as both a field of research and as a field of practice to place itself more in relation to global issues and to learn from projects, knowledge and experiences in other parts of the world.

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We therefore invite you to submit contributions that analyze the following topics from a national and/or international perspective in an intersectional way:

- current approaches to understanding migration in adult education and its significance in theory, research and educational practice
- informal and civic learning and educational processes in the context of migration
- innovative theoretical and methodological approaches in educational practice and research that take into account the interplay of different categories of difference
- the potential of international perspectives in the field of migration and adult education
- adult education concepts for dealing with racist ideologies that threaten democracy
- political education and active citizenship in the context of migration society
- use of alternative concepts (e.g. abolition pedagogy, postcolonial pedagogy, community learning, transformative justice, etc.) in adult education spaces
- future designs and utopias on the topics of migration, mobilities and adult education

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You may send an abstract of your proposed article (max. 500 words) by **20 July 2025**, to the editorial office: redaktion-zfw@die-bonn.de. The abstract should include the names of authors and affiliations, working title, topic(s) that will be addressed, method(s), and countr(ies) of focus.

Please submit your final **manuscript** at: www.springer.com/journal/40955

Deadline for submissions: 22 September 2025
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All manuscripts will undergo a double-blind peer review procedure.

The editorial office accepts manuscripts only for first and single publication (i.e., manuscripts that have not been previously published and are not being considered elsewhere for publication).

Manuscript length: max. 50,000 characters (incl. spaces and reference list). Further information on the journal and the submission of manuscripts is available on the website https://www.springer.com/journal/40955/

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